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Justice and Consumer Affairs / Public Safety / Women's Issues Branch

Symposium to raise awareness of human trafficking (07/09/20)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) - A symposium on human trafficking will be hosted by the New Brunswick Human Trafficking Task Force on Friday, Sept. 21 in Fredericton.

The New Brunswick Human Trafficking Task Force aligns various agencies and government departments so that they are prepared to deal with future cases of human trafficking in New Brunswick.

The departments of Public Safety and Justice and Consumer Affairs will be participating in the Symposium on Trafficking in Persons, along with the Canada Border Services Agency, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Criminal Intelligence Service New Brunswick, Government of New Brunswick Women's Issues Branch, the RCMP, the Salvation Army, and the YWCA, all of which worked closely to form the Task Force on Human Trafficking.

"Human trafficking is a global problem that requires international, domestic, and inter-agency co-operation and solutions," Public Safety Minister and Solicitor General John Foran said.

Human trafficking victims can be Canadian citizens or foreign nationals entering the country. Victims are often women and children. Organized crime groups in New Brunswick are involved in the domestic trafficking of persons inter-provincially for purposes of sexual exploitation.

"Awareness and knowledge are two important factors in dealing with these issues," Justice and Consumer Affairs Minister T. J. Burke said.

The purpose of the symposium is to raise awareness among government officials, law enforcement agencies, and the public. With increased awareness, New Brunswickers will be better equipped to recognize situations of human trafficking.

"While New Brunswick is not at the forefront of human trafficking, we are still exposed to the movement of trafficked persons by organized crime groups, especially in the sex trade," Minister responsible for the Status of Women Carmel Robichaud said. "Human trafficking has a profound and lasting impact on the women, girls, men and boys caught in its web. It is the product of violence, fear, coercion and isolation of these individuals. We owe it to the victims to do all we can to work with those who escape, and help to free others from the grip of traffickers."

Further information on human trafficking may be found online at the Criminal Intelligence Service New Brunswick website.

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